

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\***

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## **Washington State Patrol SWAT Accomplishments for 2005**

The WSP SWAT team responds to all high risk requests from city, county, state or federal agencies. The calls range from methamphetamine investigations (lab processing or investigation), surveillance, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) events, barricaded persons, sniper incidents, hostage situations, terrorist confrontations, high-risk warrant service, high-risk arrest situations, dignitary protection, civil or prison disturbance, and incidents on the Washington State Ferries. During 2005, the WSP SWAT team provided the following services to local law enforcement and regional drug task forces:

<u>Type of Assist</u>	<u>2005 Call outs</u>	<u>Percent change</u>
Methamphetamine lab processing*	39	-35%
Meth lab high risk tactical entries*	12	-20%
High Risk entries or warrant service	50	+28%

\*The reduction in methamphetamine lab responses is consistent with the state wide trend of fewer meth labs within the state of Washington. Most methamphetamine being supplied in Washington is being transported into the state from other areas.

During the investigations listed above, the SWAT team arrested 102 suspects. Most people arrested were turned over to the local agency or task force. The WSP also provides methamphetamine awareness classes to any group or agency who requests them. In 2005, the WSP trained 2,384 individuals in methamphetamine awareness, including law enforcement, fire personnel, and civilians. All of these services are free to the requesting agency.

2005 SWAT significant cases:

On January 14, 2005, the SWAT team served a high risk arrest warrant for the Thurston County Narcotics task force in Thurston County. The suspect was involved in the 1993 murder of retired WSP Sergeant Carl Heagle. During the entry into the residence, the suspect fired one shot at the SWAT team narrowly missing team members. The suspect was confronted and after a brief stand-off he surrendered without incident.

In September 2005, the SWAT team was called to assist Port Angeles PD with a suicidal suspect. After the SWAT team arrived the team was able to determine the suspect was semi-conscious. The team entered the house and apprehended the suspect without incident. The suspect was immediately turned over to the aid team on scene.

Washington State Patrol SWAT team continues to make a difference for the safety and security of the citizens of Washington State.